

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARVIN BRYANT,

No. C 06-0005 CW (PR)

Petitioner,

ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR WRIT
OF HABEAS CORPUS; DENYING
CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY

v.

T. FELKER, Warden,

Respondent.

Petitioner Marvin Bryant is a prisoner of the State of

California, incarcerated at CSP-Solano. On May 29, 2007,

Petitioner filed pro se a second amended petition¹ for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging the validity of his 2002 state convictions. Respondent filed an answer and Petitioner filed a traverse. Having considered all of the papers filed by the parties, the Court DENIES the petition for writ of habeas corpus.

BACKGROUND

I. Procedural History

In 2002, Petitioner waived his right to a jury trial and was convicted of attempted murder, residential robbery, assault with a

¹ On January 3, 2006, Petitioner filed an original petition for writ of habeas corpus. On March 15, 2007, the Court stayed the petition in order to allow Petitioner to exhaust his claims. On April 23, 2007, Petitioner filed an amended petition and on May 29, 2007, Petitioner filed a second amended petition. On June 30, 2009, the Court lifted the stay, granted Petitioner leave to file the second amended petition, and directed Respondent to file a response showing cause why Petitioner's second amended petition should not be granted.

1 firearm, and residential burglary. (Resp. Memo. at 1.) On May 2,
2 2003, the trial court sentenced Petitioner to twenty-eight years.
3 (Second Amended Petition (SAP) at 2.) The trial court found true
4 the allegations of personal use of a firearm, intentional discharge
5 of a firearm, and infliction of great bodily injury.

6 Petitioner timely appealed to the California Court of Appeal.
7 On September 20, 2004, the California Court of Appeal filed a
8 written opinion rejecting Petitioner's claims. (Resp. Ex. 9.)
9 Petitioner proceeded to the California Supreme Court, which denied
10 his petition in a one sentence order on December 1, 2004. (Resp.
11 Ex. 11.) Petitioner filed unsuccessful state habeas petitions in
12 the California Court of Appeal and California Supreme Court. (Resp.
13 Exs. 12, 14, 16, 19-21.) Thereafter, Petitioner filed the
14 underlying second amended petition.

15 II. Statement of Facts

16 The California Court of Appeal described the facts as follows:

17 In the spring of 2001 Denise Turner lived in the same Concord
18 apartment complex as Pamela and Raman Khanna, and Turner sold
19 Pamela Vicodin pills on a weekly basis. Sometimes Pamela paid
20 for the Vicodin with \$100 bills that she got from Raman.
Raman kept \$100 bills in a lockbox located in the Khannas's
bedroom closet.

21 On May 7, 2001, Pamela hung up the telephone on Turner when
22 Turner called asking for \$40 that she claimed Pamela owed her
23 for Vicodin. Minutes later Turner showed up at the Khannas's
apartment and argued with Pamela, who asked her to leave.
Raman gave Turner \$40 and as she left, Pamela called her a
"fucking black bitch."

24 Less than 10 minutes later, when Raman answered a knock at the
25 door he saw two African American men on the landing outside
26 his door, and a third African American man on the stairway.
27 At trial Raman identified the 18-year-old defendant as one of
28 the men on the landing. The other man on the landing,
Turner's brother Nathan Westbrook, said to Raman, "You called
my sister a black bitch," and Pamela said, "No, I did." After
Westbrook threatened to break the door down, Raman went out

1 and apologized for the "misunderstanding" between Turner and
2 Pamela. As the three men walked away, defendant said, "You're
looking to get knocked off."

3 At approximately 2:30 a.m. on May 9, 2001, Pamela woke up
4 Raman after hearing someone trying to break in the front door.
5 Through the kitchen window Raman saw appellant prying the lock
6 on the door. After several minutes, Raman unsuccessfully
7 looked out the door's peephole, the door swung open hitting
8 Raman, and he fell to the floor. Defendant entered, demanded
9 Raman's money, asked where the "hundreds" and Raman's wife
10 were. Defendant then shot Raman in the shoulder, grabbed his
11 hair, and slashed his throat with a knife. Defendant then
12 demanded that Raman crawl to the bedroom where he looked
13 through drawers and the closet in which Pamela was hiding.
14 About 10 minutes later, defendant left the apartment with
15 Raman's lockbox and key, wallet and cell phone. Pamela called
16 911.

17 While being transported to the hospital Raman told police
18 about the argument between Turner and Pamela, that three men
19 had come to the door and he was not sure he could identify his
20 attacker. He did say his attacker wore black clothing and a
21 black beanie. At about 7:00 a.m. following surgery, Raman
22 gave a taped interview with police and described his attacker
23 as the youngest of the three men who had come to his door.
24 Two days later, while still in the hospital, Raman was shown a
25 photo lineup and pointed to photo number 6, which was not
26 defendant's photo, and said, "this guy looks the most like
27 him."

28 Thereafter defendant was interviewed by police and police
obtained a current photograph of him to construct a new photo
lineup. Several days later, after being discharged from the
hospital, Raman identified defendant as his attacker in a
second photo lineup which contained defendant's current photo.
In the second photo, defendant was much lighter and in a
different position than the photo of him which was included in
the earlier photo lineup shown to Raman. The second photo
lineup also contained five filler photos which were different
from the five filler photos included in the earlier photo
lineup. Raman identified defendant as his attacker from this
second photo lineup and again at the preliminary hearing. A
neighbor of the Khannas's told police that after hearing a
"pop" he saw a Black man run from the stairwell leading to his
and the Khannas's apartment. In August 2002 he picked
defendant's picture from a photo lineup, said he recognized
him from the night of the offense and that he looked familiar.

An investigation of the crime scene revealed that the screen
to the Khannas's kitchen window had been removed, pry marks
were on the screen and door frames and the peephole had been
taped. Defendant's fingerprints were found on the exterior
kitchen window. The knife which Raman said looked like the

1 one that had slashed him was recovered from a planter box on
2 the other side of the apartment complex. Defendant, who lived
3 at the apartment complex, was briefly detained by police about
4 30 minutes after the incident and about 200 yards from the
Khannas's apartment. Defendant was released because his
clothing did not match the dispatch description of Raman's
attacker.

5 Testifying on his own behalf, defendant admitted: vandalizing
6 a car at age 14, an auto theft conviction at age 16, a 1997
7 arrest for possessing a "Ninja-rock," used to break car
8 windows, a 1998 arrest for stealing a video game, and a 1999
9 allegation of domestic violence by his girlfriend. Defendant
10 said he was at Turner's apartment when she came home upset
11 that Pamela had called her a "black bitch." He admitted he
went with Westbrook and two other men to Pamela's apartment to
demand an apology. He said Westbrook, Raman and Pamela argued
outside the Khannas's apartment. Defendant denied saying
anything or threatening the Khannas. He also denied returning
to the Khannas's apartment and having any involvement in the
crimes committed.

12 (Resp. Ex. 9 at 2-4.)

13 LEGAL STANDARD

14 A federal court may entertain a habeas petition from a state
15 prisoner "only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of
16 the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States."

17 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). Under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death
18 Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), a district court may not grant habeas
19 relief unless the state court's adjudication of the claim:

20 "(1) resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an
21 unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as
22 determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or

23 (2) resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable
24 determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in
25 the State court proceeding." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d); Williams v.
26 Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 412 (2000). The first prong applies both to
27 questions of law and to mixed questions of law and fact, id. at
28

1 407-09, and the second prong applies to decisions based on factual
2 determinations, Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 340 (2003).

3 A state court decision is "contrary to" Supreme Court
4 authority, that is, falls under the first clause of § 2254(d)(1),
5 only if "the state court arrives at a conclusion opposite to that
6 reached by [the Supreme] Court on a question of law or if the state
7 court decides a case differently than [the Supreme] Court has on a
8 set of materially indistinguishable facts." Williams, 529 U.S. at
9 412-13. A state court decision is an "unreasonable application of"
10 Supreme Court authority, under the second clause of § 2254(d)(1),
11 if it correctly identifies the governing legal principle from the
12 Supreme Court's decisions but "unreasonably applies that principle
13 to the facts of the prisoner's case." Id. at 413. The federal
14 court on habeas review may not issue the writ "simply because that
15 court concludes in its independent judgment that the relevant
16 state-court decision applied clearly established federal law
17 erroneously or incorrectly." Id. at 411. Rather, the application
18 must be "objectively unreasonable" to support granting the writ.
19 Id. at 409.

20 "Factual determinations by state courts are presumed correct
21 absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary." Miller-El,
22 537 U.S. at 340. A petitioner must present clear and convincing
23 evidence to overcome the presumption of correctness under
24 § 2254(e)(1); conclusory assertions will not do. Id. Although
25 only Supreme Court law is binding on the states, Ninth Circuit
26 precedent remains relevant persuasive authority in determining
27
28

1 whether a state court decision is objectively unreasonable. Clark
2 v. Murphy, 331 F.3d 1062, 1069 (9th Cir. 2003).

3 If constitutional error is found, habeas relief is warranted
4 only if the error had a "'substantial and injurious effect or
5 influence in determining the jury's verdict.'" Penry v. Johnson,
6 532 U.S. 782, 795 (2001) (quoting Brecht v. Abrahamson, 507 U.S.
7 619, 638 (1993)).

8 When there is no reasoned opinion from the highest state court
9 to consider the petitioner's claims, the court looks to the last
10 reasoned opinion of the highest court to analyze whether the state
11 judgment was erroneous under the standard of § 2254(d). Ylst v.
12 Nunemaker, 501 U.S. 797, 801-06 (1991). However, the standard of
13 review under AEDPA is somewhat different where the state court
14 gives no reasoned explanation of its decision on a petitioner's
15 federal claim and there is no reasoned lower court decision on the
16 claim. In such a case, a review of the record is the only means of
17 deciding whether the state court's decision was objectively
18 reasonable. See Plascencia v. Alameida, 467 F.3d 1190, 1197-98
19 (9th Cir. 2006); Himes v. Thompson, 336 F.3d 848, 853 (9th Cir.
20 2003); Greene v. Lambert, 288 F.3d 1081, 1088 (9th Cir. 2002).

21 When confronted with such a decision, a federal court should
22 conduct "an independent review of the record" to determine whether
23 the state court's decision was an objectively unreasonable
24 application of clearly established federal law. Plascencia, 467
25 F.3d at 1198; accord Lambert v. Blodgett, 393 F.3d 943, 970 n.16
26 (9th Cir. 2004). The federal court need not otherwise defer to the
27 state court decision under AEDPA: "A state court's decision on the
28

merits concerning a question of law is, and should be, afforded respect. If there is no such decision on the merits, however, there is nothing to which to defer." Greene, 288 F.3d at 1089.

DISCUSSION

Petitioner raises four claims in his federal habeas petition. First, he alleges that the pre-trial photo identification procedure was unduly suggestive and tainted Raman's in-court identification. Second, Petitioner asserts that counsel was ineffective for failing to file a motion to exclude the pre-trial identification. Third, Petitioner alleges that the prosecutor committed misconduct by allowing Raman to commit perjury. Finally, Petitioner claims that his sentence violates United States v. Booker, 543 U.S. 220 (2005).

I. Suggestive identification procedure

In the first photo line-up, Raman pointed at Number 6 as the person who looked "most like" the assailant. Petitioner was not the person depicted in Number 6. Six days after the attack, Raman was shown another photo line-up, with a different, more recent photo of Petitioner, and without photograph No. 6 from the first line-up. Raman pointed at the Petitioner's photo and indicated that he was the assailant. Petitioner claims that the pre-trial photo identification procedure was unduly suggestive. Petitioner claims that because he was the only person to have appeared in both photo line-ups, Raman was more likely to choose him. Petitioner also asserts that the failure to include the Number 6 photo from the first line-up in the second line-up must have led Raman to believe that the person he thought might be the suspect, in fact, was not and therefore, he had to choose someone else. Thus,

1 alleges Petitioner, the identification procedure was unnecessarily
2 suggestive.

3 The California Supreme Court summarily denied this claim.

4 Procedures by which a defendant is identified as the
5 perpetrator must be examined to assess whether they are unduly
6 suggestive. "It is the likelihood of misidentification which
7 violates a defendant's right to due process." Neil v. Biggers, 409
8 U.S. 188, 198 (1972). An identification procedure is impermissibly
9 suggestive when it emphasizes a single individual, thereby
10 increasing the likelihood of misidentification. Foster v.
11 California, 394 U.S. 440, 443 (1969); United States v. Bagley, 772
12 F.2d 482, 493 (9th Cir. 1985).

13 Petitioner's photo in the first line-up, placed in position
14 Number 3, had been taken two years prior at a DMV office. (RT 494-
15 495.) The officer who assembled the photo line-up had the picture
16 enhanced to improve exposure. (Id.) Petitioner's photo in the
17 second line-up, placed in position Number 4, had been taken three
18 days after the underlying crimes. (RT at 498-499; Ex. 8.)

19 The photo line-ups were not impermissibly suggestive.
20 Analyzing the photo line-ups separately, a comparison of the photos
21 in the first line-up does not reveal any significant differences
22 between the men displayed in the spread. (Resp. Ex. 7.) All of
23 the men were African-American and mostly clean-shaven² with similar
24 short hair styles. (Id.) In addition, with the exception of
25 Number 6, the one that Raman believed looked most like the

26
27 ² Raman indicated that he was not sure whether his assailant had
28 facial hair. (RT 221, 233-235.)

1 assailant, all of the men were photographed against a blue
2 background. The first photo line-up does not single out Petitioner
3 from the others.

4 A comparison of the photos in the second line-up also does not
5 reveal any significant differences among them. (Resp. Ex. 8.)
6 Again, all the men were African-American and mostly clean-shaven
7 with similar short hair styles. (Id.) The men were also all
8 photographed against a light background. (Id.) There is no
9 particular emphasis on Petitioner in the second line-up that would
10 have singled him out from the others.

11 In addition, the omission of photo Number 6 from the second
12 line-up, combined with Petitioner being the only common individual
13 in both line-ups, did not emphasize the focus upon a single
14 individual. Here, Officer Murray, the officer who presented both
15 photographic line-ups to Raman, testified that prior to showing
16 Raman each photo array, he gave the standard admonition to him,
17 advising him that he was under no obligation to select any
18 individual and that the purpose of the line-up was not only to find
19 the attacker, but also to eliminate those who were innocent of the
20 crime. (RT 154, 498, 500.) At no time did Murray emphasize any
21 individual when showing Raman the photo arrays. (RT 189.)

22 Although Raman had pointed to the Number 6 photo in the first line-
23 up as the man who looked "most like" his assailant, both Raman and
24 Murray testified that Raman actually did not identify anyone in the
25 first photo line-up as his attacker. (RT 155, 496, 532-33.) In
26 fact, with respect to the first photo line-up, Raman referred to
27 every picture except Petitioner's, and remarked that "the people
28

1 looked familiar." (RT 496-98; 532-33.) In contrast, a few days
2 later, when the officer presented Raman with the second photo line-
3 up, which included the more recent photo of Petitioner, Raman
4 quickly pointed to Petitioner's photograph and stated, "Right
5 there." (RT 501.) Thus, the record belies Petitioner's assertion
6 that omitting the Number 6 photo from the second photo line-up
7 implicitly told Raman that his "initial choice" was wrong because,
8 although Raman stated Number 6 looked the most like his attacker,
9 he actually did not identify anyone from the first photo array as
10 his attacker.

11 The fact that Petitioner was the only person to have appeared
12 in both photo line-ups is also not unduly suggestive. See United
13 States v. Davenport, 753 F.2d 1460, 1463 (9th Cir. 1985) (rejecting
14 a claim of suggestive pretrial identification based only on the
15 fact that appellant was "the only individual common to the photo
16 spread and the lineup"). While this practice can arguably be
17 suggestive in certain instances, it does not per se invalidate the
18 procedure. Moreover, in this case, Murray used a different
19 photograph of the Petitioner in each line-up and placed it in a
20 different location in the arrays. This is not a situation in which
21 Raman was repeatedly shown a photograph of Petitioner, or in which
22 the police specifically emphasized Petitioner in some way. See
23 Simmons v. United States, 390 U.S. 377, 383-84 (1968).

24 Thus, Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that the
25 identification procedures used in the case were "so unnecessarily
26 suggestive and conducive to irreparable mistaken identification
27 that he was denied due process of law." Johnson v. Sublett, 63
28

1 F.3d 926, 929 (1995) (internal quotation marks and citation
2 omitted) (finding no due process violation where any possible
3 prejudice defendant may suffer from unreliable identification
4 mitigated by cross-examination and other courtroom safeguards).

5 However, even if the pretrial identification procedure was
6 unduly suggestive, the in-court identification need not necessarily
7 be excluded as tainted. In order to determine whether an
8 identification procedure is so unduly suggestive so as to give rise
9 to a substantial likelihood of misidentification, the Court must
10 examine the totality of the circumstances. See Bagley, 772 F.2d at
11 492 (citing Simmons, 390 U.S. at 384). Reliability is the linchpin
12 in determining the admissibility of identification testimony.
13 Manson v. Brathwaite, 432 U.S. 98, 100-14 (1977).

14 In determining whether in-court identification testimony is
15 sufficiently reliable, courts consider five factors: (1) the
16 witness' opportunity to view the perpetrator at the time of the
17 incident; (2) the witness' degree of attention; (3) the accuracy of
18 the witness' prior description; (4) the level of certainty
19 demonstrated by the witness at the time of the identification
20 procedure; and (5) the length of time between the incident and the
21 identification. Manson, 432 U.S. at 114; Neil, 409 U.S. at 199-
22 200. See, e.g., United States v. Drake, 543 F.3d 1080, 1089 (9th
23 Cir. 2008) (finding that where first four factors weighed in favor
24 of reliability, four-day delay between robbery and photo spread
25 identification did not call identification's accuracy into
26 question); United States v. Wang, 49 F.3d 502, 505 (9th Cir. 1995)
27 (identification of defendant in photographs reliable where witness
28

1 had ample opportunity to view defendant and actually spoke with
2 him).

3 In order to analyze the in-court identification under the
4 factors set out in Manson and Neil, the specific circumstances of
5 Raman's opportunity to view the assailant on the night of the
6 crimes must be considered. At the time of the robbery, Raman saw
7 Petitioner from his window trying to pry open Raman's front door.
8 (RT 130-131.) Raman observed Petitioner's face for about two or
9 three minutes. (Id.) Once the Petitioner came into the house,
10 Raman had an opportunity to observe his face for another few
11 minutes before Petitioner shot him and slashed his throat, and
12 again when Raman gave Petitioner a key to a lockbox. (RT 133-135,
13 138, 147-148.) The first two factors weigh in favor of the
14 reliability of the identification. Even though Raman was likely
15 fearful and distracted once Petitioner entered the house, Raman did
16 watch Petitioner for several minutes prior to that time trying to
17 pry open the front door. In his interview with the police, Raman
18 described his attacker as an African-American male, about 5'9" or
19 5'10", 160 pounds, and approximately 20 years old. (RT 167.) The
20 third factor also weighs in favor of reliability, especially
21 considering that Raman recognized Petitioner from the May 7
22 incident. (RT 151, 216.) In addition, when Raman selected
23 Petitioner from the second photo line-up, he did not hesitate and
24 was certain that Petitioner was the assailant. (RT 501.) Finally,
25 that Raman was shown this second photo line-up only six days after
26 the attack supports the reliability of the identification. See
27 Neil, 409 U.S. at 201.

1 In sum, the state court decisions were not unreasonable: the
2 identification was reliable and, even assuming that the photo
3 identification procedure was suggestive, its admission and the in-
4 court identification did not violate due process.

5 II. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

6 Petitioner claims that counsel rendered ineffective assistance
7 by failing to move to exclude Raman's pretrial or in-court
8 identification of Petitioner as being a result of an impermissibly
9 suggestive identification procedure.

10 The California Supreme Court denied this claim without
11 comment.

12 A claim of ineffective assistance of counsel is cognizable as
13 a claim of denial of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel, which
14 guarantees not only assistance, but effective assistance of
15 counsel. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 686 (1984). The
16 benchmark for judging any claim of ineffectiveness must be whether
17 counsel's conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the
18 adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied upon as having
19 produced a just result. Id. In order to prevail on a Sixth
20 Amendment ineffectiveness of counsel claim, a petitioner must
21 establish two things. First, he must establish that counsel's
22 performance was deficient, i.e., that it fell below an "objective
23 standard of reasonableness" under prevailing professional norms.
24 Strickland, 466 U.S. at 687-88. Judicial scrutiny of counsel's
25 performance must be highly deferential, and a court must indulge a
26 strong presumption that counsel's conduct falls within the wide

1 range of reasonable professional assistance. See Strickland, 466
2 U.S. at 689.

3 Second, a petitioner must establish that he was prejudiced by
4 counsel's deficient performance, i.e., that "there is a reasonable
5 probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the
6 result of the proceeding would have been different." Id. at 694.
7 A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine
8 confidence in the outcome. Id. In federal habeas cases, a "doubly
9 deferential judicial review" is appropriate in analyzing
10 ineffective assistance of counsel claims. Cheney v. Washington,
11 614 F.3d 987, 994-95 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing Yarborough v.
12 Alvarado, 541 U.S. 652, 664 (2004)).

13 Notwithstanding the declaration from Petitioner's appellate
14 counsel that trial counsel admitted there was no tactical reason
15 for him not to raise a suppression motion (Traverse, Ex. C), the
16 state courts were not unreasonable in determining that counsel was
17 not ineffective. As discussed above, it was not unreasonable to
18 find that the pretrial identification procedure was not unduly
19 suggestive. Moreover, the circumstances weigh in favor of a
20 reliable identification. See Manson v. Brathwaite, 432 U.S. 98,
21 100-14 (1977). Accordingly, Petitioner has not demonstrated a
22 reasonable probability that the result of the proceeding would have
23 been different had counsel challenged the pretrial identification
24 procedure. See Wilson v. Henry, 185 F.3d 986, 990 (9th Cir. 1999)
25 (to show prejudice under Strickland from failure to file a motion,
26 petitioner must show that (1) had his counsel filed the motion, it
27 is reasonable that the trial court would have granted it as
28

1 meritorious, and (2) had the motion been granted, it is reasonable
2 that there would have been an outcome more favorable to him).

3 III. Prosecutorial misconduct

4 Petitioner claims that the prosecutor committed misconduct
5 when he allowed Raman to testify falsely that before the attack,
6 there was a screen on the kitchen window that was not there after
7 the attack. Petitioner argues that Raman had stated previously
8 that on May 7 when the three men confronted Raman and his wife,
9 Raman had said, "When the guys were leaning through my kitchen
10 window . . ." which indicated that there was no screen present at
11 least two days before the attack.

12 The California Supreme Court denied this claim without
13 comment.

14 "[A] conviction obtained by the knowing use of perjured
15 testimony is fundamentally unfair, and must be set aside if there
16 is any reasonable likelihood that the false testimony could have
17 affected the judgment of the jury." United States v. Agurs, 427
18 U.S. 97, 103 (1976). Even a conviction based in part on perjured
19 testimony or false evidence, presented in good faith, does not
20 comport with notions of fundamental fairness guaranteed by the due
21 process clause. See Hayes v. Brown, 399 F.3d 972, 980 (9th Cir.
22 2005). Thus, when the government unwittingly presents perjured
23 testimony, a reviewing court must determine whether "'there is a
24 reasonable probability that [without all the perjury] the result of
25 the proceeding would have been different.'" Killian v. Poole, 282
26 F.3d 1204, 1209 (9th Cir. 2002). Ultimately, relief will depend on
27 whether, with the perjured testimony or false evidence, the
28

1 petitioner received a fair trial. See Kyles v. Whitley, 514 U.S.
2 419, 434 (1995). A violation will be found, and relief will be
3 granted, upon a showing that the perjured testimony or false
4 evidence could reasonably be taken to put the whole case in such a
5 different light as to undermine confidence in the verdict. See id.
6 at 435.

7 Even if Raman's testimony was inconsistent, this does not mean
8 that one of his statements was false. "Mere inconsistencies in
9 testimony by government witnesses do not establish knowing use of
10 false testimony." Coe v. Bell, 161 F.3d 320, 343 (6th Cir. 1998);
11 see United States v. Croft, 124 F.3d 1109, 1119-1120 (9th Cir.
12 1997) ("The fact that a witness may have made an earlier
13 inconsistent statement, or that other witnesses have conflicting
14 recollections of events, does not establish that the testimony
15 offered at trial was false."); United States v. Zuno-Arce, 44 F.3d
16 1420, 1423 (9th Cir. 1995) (no evidence of prosecutorial misconduct
17 where discrepancies in testimony could as easily flow from errors
18 in recollection as from lies).

19 Moreover, even if the trial testimony were false, it is not
20 probable that, without it, the result of the trial would have been
21 different. Detective Finney testified that on the day of the
22 attack, he investigated the crime scene and noticed that although
23 there was a frame within the kitchen window, the frame was bent and
24 there were pry marks on the corner, but no screen inside the frame.
25 (RT 272.) The prosecution's fingerprint expert matched three
26 latent prints from the kitchen window with Petitioner's prints.
27 Finney also testified that he found a portion of screen fabric on
28

1 the stairway leading up to Raman's apartment (RT 274), but never
2 located the entire screen (RT 288). This leads to the inference
3 that someone tried to pry open the window and removed the screen
4 around the time of the attack. On the other hand, Petitioner
5 testified that he could have left his fingerprints accidentally on
6 the window on May 7 rather than on May 9. (RT 822.) In addition,
7 Petitioner's version of events included Raman's wife sticking her
8 head out of the kitchen window on May 7 to confront Denise (RT 818-
9 21), which would indicate that there was no screen on the window on
10 that date, contrary to Raman's trial testimony. These credibility
11 determinations were properly weighed and determined by the trier of
12 fact and may not be re-weighed in this Court. Moreover, the issue
13 in this case was one of identification, and whether the screen was
14 present at the time of the attack was not material to the ultimate
15 determination of Petitioner's guilt.

16 Therefore, because Petitioner fails to prove that the
17 statements were false, or that the testimony was material, his
18 prosecutorial misconduct claim fails under the Agurs/Napue
19 standard. See Allen v. Woodford, 395 F.3d 979, 995 (9th Cir. 2005)
20 (rejecting claim of prosecutorial misconduct where witness'
21 inconsistencies were pointed out to the jury and witness was
22 subjected to impeachment evidence and concluding that appellant
23 failed to establish falsity of testimony). Accordingly, the state
24 courts' decision denying relief on this claim was not contrary to
25 or an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law.

1 IV. Booker claim

2 Petitioner argues that, because United States v. Booker, 543
3 U.S. 220 (2005), held that the mandatory application of the United
4 States Sentencing Guidelines was unconstitutional, the trial court
5 was not required to impose a twenty year mandatory gun enhancement
6 pursuant to California Penal Code § 12022.53(c).

7 Because Petitioner was not sentenced under the United States
8 Sentencing Guidelines, this argument is meritless. To the extent
9 Petitioner is arguing that his twenty year gun enhancement violates
10 the Sixth Amendment because it was not submitted to a jury, his
11 argument still fails. Petitioner opted to be tried by the court
12 and waived his right to a jury trial. Thus, the gun enhancement
13 was found true by the trier of fact. See Wright v. Craven, 412
14 F.2d 915, 918-919 (9th Cir. 1969); Swanson v. Adams, 2007 WL
15 3119553, *6 (N.D. Cal.) ("Although there is little recent law and
16 none directly on point, it was reasonable for the court of appeal
17 to hold that when petitioner waived his right to a jury trial, he
18 waived his right to a jury determination of all issues in the case,
19 including those that formed the basis of the trial court's
20 sentencing decision.").

21 CONCLUSION

22 For the foregoing reasons, the petition for a writ of habeas
23 corpus is denied.

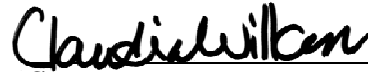
24 Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases now
25 requires a district court to rule on whether a petitioner is
26 entitled to a certificate of appealability in the same order in
27 which the petition is denied. Reasonable jurists could find the
28

1 Court's assessment of the following claims debatable: (1) the pre-
2 trial photo identification procedure was unduly suggestive and
3 tainted Raman's in-court identification, and (2) counsel was
4 ineffective for failing to file a motion to exclude the pre-trial
5 identification. See Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).
6 Thus, a certificate of appealability is GRANTED as to those two
7 claims and denied as to the others.

8 The clerk shall enter judgment and close the file. All
9 pending motions are terminated. Each party shall bear his own
10 costs.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12
13 Dated: 1/24/2011



14 CLAUDIA WILKEN
15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARVIN BRYANT III,

Plaintiff,

v.

T.FELKER et al,

Defendant.

Case Number: CV06-00005 CW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on January 24, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Marvin Bryant T-92379
3-114U
CSP-Solano
P.O. Box 4000
Vacaville, CA 95696-4000

Dated: January 24, 2011

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Nikki Riley, Deputy Clerk

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California